

## "Black Box" To Be Introduced For Commercial Vehicles

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., June 16 - Diversified Auto Technology (DAT), a U.S. transport electronic development company based in California, announced its plans to introduce the ultimate "Black Box" on the marketplace by the end of this year.

The "Vehicle Data Recorder System" is a product culminating 12 years of R&D. The goal is to provide the first digital state of the art electronically controlled "On-Board" commercial vehicle monitoring and recording device utilizing a multitude of technologies. The system is fully, independent of the vehicles' already existing computer modules and contains its own microprocessors, sensors and memory much like the proven aircraft data recorders, thereby providing data with integrity.

First to be introduced in Europe then the U.S. shortly thereafter, the base commercial truck system will contain Accident Recordation, Commercial Drivers Log, and Anti-Theft technologies. Additional modular and upgradable "plug-in" technologies will include Weigh-in-Motion, Wireless Communications (Cellular & Satellite Voice & Data plus Two Way Mobile Radio), GPS (Global Positioning), Electronic Fee Collection, Voice Recognition, Voice Synthesis and Navigation. Another first will be the offering of a commercial trailer system that will include Accident Recordation, Wireless Communications, and GPS technology in the basic unit. The trailer system can be upgraded to include Weigh-In-Motion that will also double as an Anti-Theft feature. The Wireless Communication features allow data to be electronically downloaded to a fixed or mobile location, thereby providing more efficient enforcement of transport commerce.

DAT, in seeking a joint venture with a satellite communications company, has met with Washington D.C. based Iridium and spoken to Motorola, which owns 18 percent of Iridium. DAT believes Iridium to be the excellent candidate for such a joint venture because of their inherent overlapping satellite coverage capabilities. The number of EU (European Union) commercial vehicle registrations for trucks, trailers and buses has reached the 30 million mark. The possible inclusion of Iridium's satellite technology into DAT's "Vehicle Data Recorder System" could prove to be enormously beneficial to both companies should a deal be reached. Having access to a marketplace of this magnitude could virtually change the whole "ballgame" for Iridium.

Recent European Union (EU) legislation was adopted in Brussels, Belgium regarding On-Board monitoring devices for certain classes of commercial trucks and buses. This new legislation, 13 years in the making, provides for the mandatory fitment of an On-Board vehicular monitoring device to be used in approximately 9 million trucks and buses throughout the 15 EU countries over the next 10 years.

Working with EU officials as well as European State government officials for over

11 years, DAT has been very influential and has participated in the drafting of this important transport legislation. The proposed EU specifications expected to be completed by this year's and, emulate our ``Vehicle Data Recorder System." It is perceived by DAT that a similar system could soon be adopted in the U.S. as well.

SOURCE: Diversified Auto Technology